

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-04 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /064 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3350

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, SO, FT

SUBJECT: FRENCH-SOMALI RELATIONS

REF: MOGADISCIO 1565

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA COMBAL TOLD US OCTOBER 17 THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF PRESIDENT SIAD'S "PRIVATE" VISIT TO PARIS WAS "GOOD AND CORDIAL". HE RECALLED THE GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DATING FROM LATE 1972 WHEN THE FRENCH TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO INFORM THE SOMALIS BEFOREHAND OF PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S PROJECTED VISIT TO DJIBOUTI AND ADDIS ABABA. AT THAT TIME, THE SOMALIS PROMISED TO DO NOTHING TO STIR UP THINGS IN THE FTAI DURING POMPIDOU'S VISIT AND INVITED THE PRESIDENT TO VISIT MOGADISCIO, AN INVITATION THE FRENCH FOUND IT EXPEDIENT TO REFUSE ON THE GROUNDS OF THERE BEGING INSUFFICIENT TIME. COMBAL SAID THAT THE SOMALIS HAD KEPT THEIR WORD AND HAVE DONE NOTHING SIGNIFICANT SINCE THEN TO ENCOURAGE DISSIDENCE IN THE FTAI.

2. COMBAL NOTED THAT SIAD'S PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS NO LONGER EMPHASIZE THE RETURN OF THE FTAI TO THE
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SOMALI MOTHERLAND BUT, RATHER, UNDERLINE THE SOMALI

CONVICTION THAT THE TERRITORY SHOULD BE QUICKLY GRANTED INDEPENDENCE (WHEN IT PRESUMABLY WOULD FALL INTO SOMALIA'S LAP). BOTH GISCARD AND SAUVAGNARGUES FORCEFULLY RESTATED TO SIAD THE FIRM FRENCH INTENTION TO REMAIN IN DJIBOUTI AS LONG AS THE POPULATION APPROVES, AS IT HAS DONE BY REFERENDUM.

3. COMBAL MENTIONED THE PROSPECTIVE VISIT BY THE FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER IN DJIBOUTI TO MOGADISCIO AND ADDED THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WOULD MAKE A SIMILAR VISIT TO ADDIS WHENEVER THE ETHIOPIAN SITUATION WOULD ALLOW IT. HE WAS DOUBTFUL THAT THE ETHIOPIAN VISIT WOULD BE POSSIBLE BEFORE MANY MONTHS.

4. IN REPLY TO REFTTEL, VISITING LEADERS FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ON "PRIVATE" VISITS ALMOST ALWAYS MEET COMMUNIST PARTY REPRESENTATIVES HERE AND FRENCH MEDIA PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO SIAD'S MEETING WITH MARCHAIS. WE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE, HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR SAMANTAR'S HAVING PROPOSED THE MEETING.
IRWIN

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